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EARTHQUAKE TESTS TO SHOW RISKS AND QUICK FIXES TO HOMES

A simulated earthquake will show how homeowners can use simple, low-cost measures in their homes to avoid thousands of dollars in uninsured losses. Researchers will demonstrate the benefits of these non-structural measures using a scale model to represent a typical living room and "crash test" dummies as occupants. The simulation will run on the Corps of Engineers' Triaxial Earthquake and Shock Simulator (TESS) on Wednesday, April 19th, at the U.S. Army Construction Engineering Research Laboratory (CERL), 2902 Newmark Drive, Champaign, IL.

The media is invited to view the demonstrations, which will begin at 1:30 p.m. Please schedule with the Public Affairs office.

The project is a combined educational effort by the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS), the Mid-America Earthquake Center (MAE), CERL, the City of Urbana, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), State Farm Insurance Companies, and the Insurance Information Institute. Additional support is also being provided by Illinois Power Company.

The project will show the benefits of using simple mitigation techniques to prevent expensive damage to contents and reduce the risk of injury to occupants in a typical home environment. The crash test dummies, on loan from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, will show the potential risks to building occupants during an earthquake. Simulated earthquakes will be run before and after retrofitting the test room.

The project's goal is to raise public awareness of both the risks posed by earthquakes and the actions they can take to reduce potential damage and increase safety.

This demonstration is one of the City of Urbana's Project Impact programs. Project Impact is an initiative from the Federal Emergency Management Agency that seeks to build disaster-resistant communities by fostering partnerships that use proactive approaches to mitigating damage from natural hazards such as earthquakes, floods, high

winds, ice storms, etc. For more information about the Urbana Project Impact program, contact Craig Grant at (217) 384-2431.

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